(d) if so, the details of the scheme as well as the modified orders of the Government in respect of (c) above; and

(e) the financial implication involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, based on the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises a scheme of Voluntary Retirement has been introduced in Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited from January, 1992. The number of employees who have taken voluntary retirement under this scheme upto 31.3.95 is 390.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Reservations to Dalit Christians

*69. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give reservations to Dalit Christians;

(b) if so, by when this scheme will come into effect; and

(c) the cause of delay in implementing this policy?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) The Extension of reservation benefits applicable to Scheduled Castes to Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity is under consideration of the Government. However, Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity are included in the Central list of Other Backward Classes in relation to the State of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Pondicherry. As such, reservations in the services of the Central Government and its Public Sector Undertakings are already available to them as Other Backward Classes.

PDS Outlets in States of North-East and Madhya Pradesh

*70. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of PDS outlets set up in Assam, other States of North-East and Madhya Pradesh as on date;

(b) the number of people in each of these caters to, in different States of North-East;

(c) whether these figures compare well with other States in the country; and

(d) what is the corresponding status of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments in which the States/UTs are responsible for all operational details within the states including opening of PDS outlets. The Districtwise details of PDS outlets are not maintained by the Central Government. However, the total number of PDS outlets and the population as per 1991 census in the following States are as under:—

(In Lakhs)

States	No. of FPS	Population (1991 census)
Arunachal Pradesh	919	8.58
Assam	27522	222.94
Manipur	1958	18.26
Meghalaya	3832	17.60
Nagaland	262	12.15
Tripura	1316	27.44
Mizoram	935	6.86